1: Lin E-5 (1943) 1947 AE4 Lolo AE4

PREFACE

More than ten years ago I dreamed of traveling in Liang Shan and penetrating into the "Lolo nation," called the Independent Lolo region by foreign writers. Since the Sino-Japanese War, I have traveled and taught in the provinces of Szechwan and Yunnan. So I have had the opportunity to observe firsthand the immense southwest hinterland of China. Last summer I went to investigate the Lolo area in Liang Shan, and my previous dream was realized.

The period of investigation lasted from July 2 to September 26, altogether 87 days. My student assistant Hu Liang-chen, the janitor of the school Old Fan, and I myself started from Ch'eng-tu. After we reached Lei-po we hired two interpreters, one named Wang Chü-sung and the other Hu Chan-yün, and also three black Lolo as headmen-protectors. These constituted the Frontier Inspection Team of Yenching University. We went westward to the Ta-liang Shan and Hsiao-liang Shan for field study. The details of this trip have been recounted in Appendix II [not translated] and need not be repeated here.

The name "Lolo" is not used frequently among the people themselves in Liang Shan. The Chinese in the frontier area call the Lolo "Man-tzu"; in their own conversation they call themselves "I-chia." Therefore Lolo, Man-tzu, and I-chia are different terms, but they refer to the same people.

This book is entitled Liang-shan I-chia. Liang Shan is a geographical area; the meaning of I-chia is twofold. In a broad sense it denotes the whole Lolo society, and in a restricted sense it denotes the Lolo family and clan organization. The first chapter of this book, "Regions," points out the geographical area covered by this inspection trip. Chapters 2 through 5 describe Lolo social structure from large social groups to smaller ones in a continuous sequence from clan, kinship, family, to marriage. Chapters 6 through 9 describe the various important aspects of Lolo life, such as the economy, social classes, clan feuds, and magic, all characteristic of this society.

Liang-shan I-chia is a field report based on the data collected personally by the author. The study is centered on the family and the clan, but it also touches upon other phases of